

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:
closing the throttle valve at least once during the switching off operation of the internal combustion engine.
3. (currently amended) A method for the controlled switching off of a spark ignition internal combustion engine having at least one combustion chamber formed by a cylinder and a piston, and having an associated combustion air intake system having at least one of a throttle valve and a variable gas metering system, the engine being coupled to an engine controller, said method comprising:
opening the throttle valve at least once during the switching off operation of the engine ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein said throttle valve actuation is based on a rotational speed signal.
4. (currently amended) A method for the controlled switching off of a spark ignition internal combustion engine having at least one combustion chamber formed by a cylinder and a piston, and having an associated combustion air intake system having at least one of a throttle valve and a variable gas metering system, the engine being coupled to an engine controller, said method comprising:
opening the throttle valve at least once during the switching off operation of the engine ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein said throttle valve actuation is based on an intake manifold pressure signal is used to actuate the throttle valve.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein said throttle valve actuation ~~rotational speed signal~~ is based on at least one of a crankshaft rotational angle signal and a camshaft rotational angle signal.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
opening the throttle valve during the last intake process of the cylinder
which later, when the engine is stationary, is the compression cylinder.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
opening the throttle valve during the last intake process of the cylinder
which later, when the engine is stationary, is the expansion cylinder.
8. (canceled).
9. (currently amended) An engine system for the controlled switching off of a spark ignition internal combustion engine having at least one combustion chamber formed by a cylinder and a piston, said system comprising:
an air intake system having a throttle valve; and
an engine controller electronically coupled to the engine and said throttle valve, said controller causing said throttle valve to open at least once during the switching off operation of the engine. ~~The engine system of claim 8 wherein said controller bases said throttle valve opening on at least one of: on a rotational speed signal and an intake manifold pressure signal.~~
10. (currently amended) The engine system of claim 98, wherein said controller causes said throttle valve to open during the last intake process of a particular cylinder, said particular cylinder being on a compression stroke when the engine comes to a standstill.
11. (currently amended) The engine system of claim 98, wherein said controller causes said throttle valve to open during the last intake process of a particular cylinder, said particular cylinder being on an expansion stroke when the engine comes to a standstill.